

physician who specializes in diseases of the ear) before purchasing a hearing aid. Licensed physicians who specialize in diseases of the ear are often referred to as otolaryngologists, otologists or otorhinolaryngologists. The purpose of medical evaluation is to assure that all medically treatable conditions that may affect hearing are identified and treated before the hearing aid is purchased.

Following the medical evaluation, the physician will give you a written statement that states that your hearing loss has been medically evaluated and that you may be considered a candidate for a hearing aid. The physician will refer you to an audiologist or a hearing aid dispenser, as appropriate, for a hearing aid evaluation.

The audiologist or hearing aid dispenser will conduct a hearing aid evaluation to assess your ability to hear with and without a hearing aid. The hearing aid evaluation will enable the audiologist or dispenser to select and fit a hearing aid to your individual needs.

If you have reservations about your ability to adapt to amplification, you should inquire about the availability of a trial-rental or purchase-option program. Many hearing aid dispensers now offer programs that permit you to wear a hearing aid for a period of time for a nominal fee after which you may decide if you want to purchase the hearing aid.

Federal law restricts the sale of hearing aids to those individuals who have obtained a medical evaluation from a licensed physician. Federal law permits a fully informed adult to sign a waiver statement declining the medical evaluation for religious or personal beliefs that preclude consultation with a physician. The exercise of such a waiver is not in your best health interest and its use is strongly discouraged.

CHILDREN WITH HEARING LOSS

In addition to seeing a physician for a medical evaluation, a child with a hearing loss should be directed to an audiologist for evaluation and rehabilitation since hearing loss may cause problems in language development and the educational and social growth of a child. An audiologist is qualified by training and experience to assist in the evaluation and rehabilitation of a child with a hearing loss.

(4) *Technical data.* Technical data useful in selecting, fitting, and checking the performance of a hearing aid shall be provided in the User Instructional Brochure or in separate labeling that accompanies the device. The determination of technical data values for the hearing aid labeling shall be conducted in accordance with the test

procedures of the American National Standard "Specification of Hearing Aid Characteristics," ANSI S3.22-1987 (ASA 70-1987) (Revision of S3.22-1982), which is incorporated by reference in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a). Copies are available from the American National Standards Institute, 1430 Broadway, New York, NY 10018, or are available for inspection at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC 20408. As a minimum, the User Instructional Brochure or such other labeling shall include the appropriate values or information for the following technical data elements as these elements are defined or used in such standard:

- (i) Saturation output curve (SSPL 90 curve).
- (ii) Frequency response curve.
- (iii) Average saturation output (HF-Average SSPL 90).
- (iv) Average full-on gain (HF-Average full-on gain).
- (v) Reference test gain.
- (vi) Frequency range.
- (vii) Total harmonic distortion.
- (viii) Equivalent input noise.
- (ix) Battery current drain.
- (x) Induction coil sensitivity (telephone coil aids only).
- (xi) Input-output curve (ACG aids only).
- (xii) Attack and release times (ACG aids only).

(5) *Statement if hearing aid is used or rebuilt.* If a hearing aid has been used or rebuilt, this fact shall be declared on the container in which the hearing aid is packaged and on a tag that is physically attached to such hearing aid. Such fact may also be stated in the User Instructional Brochure.

(6) *Statements in User Instructional Brochure other than those required.* A User Instructional Brochure may contain statements or illustrations in addition to those required by paragraph (c) of this section if the additional statements:

- (i) Are not false or misleading in any particular, e.g., diminishing the impact of the required statements; and
- (ii) Are not prohibited by this chapter or by regulations of the Federal Trade Commission.

(d) *Submission of all labeling for each type of hearing aid.* Any manufacturer of a hearing aid described in paragraph (a) of this section shall submit to the